

THE SAN JUAN TIMES

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1895.

The Citizen: When you look through the main exhibition hall, please bear in mind that the grand exhibit there to be seen is mainly due to the persistent work of M. P. Stamm, superintendent of the fruit, grain and vegetable departments. Mr. Stamm has devoted two months of solid work to the task of making his departments creditable to the territory.

The suppression of litigation, unnecessary, plunging the county into expense it cannot afford to bear, is a duty of every citizen. We commend the stand taken by John McDermott of the La Plata, mainly, honest and highly commendable. We commend Mr. McDermott. That gentleman forcibly expressed his indignation at the "perpetual suits" in our county, the man who had seven cases, cases that ought not to be on the docket. This species of citizen, McDermott, saddles the county with costs, in addition, tends to disgrace upon us. It must be ended. We heartily endorse this sentiment and are glad to hear of this forward expression of a right citizen.

A projected San Juan county fair is under way. The public look forward to the exhibition of our resources from all sides assurances of attention to exhibit or to attend. Colorado and other parts, strangers will come in. There has been no advertising on our part. The territorial press with their usual anxiety to help on any object for the good of the territory, have given us free notices. The citizens will see the importance of making this fair a success. No better advertisement can be made for our fruits, no better means of drawing attention to our resources than this. The arrangements will be, needless, perfected soon. Messrs. Miller and Locke will be home in a few days and lend their aid. The committee are doing their best. An excellent program is offered. The best oratorical excellence will form part of the program. We feel sure that both ends of the county will send a quota to the show. This, like all the other resources, will prove a magnificent and show to the world. Far ahead this county is of all competitors in the growth of the finest fruits and vegetables.

The consensus of opinion, and common sense, is in favor of spending as much money at home amongst the store keeper and other tradesmen as possible. The fact that a portion of this money, in other words the profit on the sale, remains as a rule in the town, is one sound argument for dealing locally. The prices may of course affect the home sale, but the increase of local business of all kinds should be earnestly urged. To send the earnings of the community away to other parts is antagonistic to the growth of the county. It deprives the district of funds. It creates a poor country. The control of local moneys by the locality necessarily promotes sound advancement and improvement. Money circulates, buys, causes reciprocity in dealing and furnishes the sole power of investment in local farm stock, in buildings, in lands and in other matters ancillary hereto. This argument is applicable, also, to the man who holds money. He should place his capital at home. His interest lies there surely, not in a strange and far away district. If he has settled in a certain district he has done so, because he, after careful inspection, considers that his home should be there. This line of argument applies also to financial institutions. If a bank locate in a district, it does so because it is conceived by the promoters thereof that the country presents those peculiar features calculated to yield that class of business. Now as a bank is thought essential to progressive districts, so the people of these districts give the bank their support. The bank is a depository for money. It affords a safe place of keeping for the ordinary tradesman's money. He has his running account there. The man who owns a little capital can place it there on deposit,

or invest it through the bank. The bank is a convenience. It is a necessity of our time. The bank lends its money, does its usual banking business, deals with the tradesman who deals with it; but it must be enabled to do this by receiving support. The people expect aid from a bank they put it in the bank's power to help them by dealing with the bank. A number of customers whose moneys are in the bank place the bank in a position where it can stand by the customer. But to avoid the local bank and deal elsewhere brings the bank to the position of a mere loan office. It must lend its own moneys on gilt edge security, and comes to an end on the capital being loaned out. The people make the bank in the real meaning of the word. They place their money there, strengthen the institution by countenancing it. The benefit is reciprocal. This line of argument applies to the general principle of keeping as much money at home as possible. This conservative system can be carried further with reference to the production of all necessities at home that the soil can produce.

DISTRICT COURT.

The long looked for, oft delayed, district court has actually come and gone. In all its varied phases, with all its peculiar features, its strange display of human error, passion and wrong doing, diplomatic intrigue, unbiased and biased decisions, unexpected disclosures, unfulfilled expectations and narrow escapes, this event has transpired and become a thing of the past.

San Juan county court has always been looked upon as being anything but a walkaway for the judiciary. Certain hard features have existed that probably have enabled the county to escape the visit of the court in its timed regularity. Want of money, an aversion to an unpleasant task, have prompted judge and court to keep away from here, whenever a dignified excuse could be made. A hiatus in the series of courts would be naturally an intense relief to some.

The docket has this time been cleaned up—unprecedented. Civil cases have been disposed of; criminal cases fought out; convictions secured. By the way, in the history of our county only one conviction seems ever to have been recorded before this court. Boys have pleaded guilty but only one fair and square conviction after a trial.

Our present judge, prosecutor and court officials opened court Monday week with a long docket. Some important cases were before them, cases that had awaited decision for two years or more. These were entered upon with that stern sense of duty, that knowledge of the responsibility of the situation, that has characterized the conduct of this present judicial regime—an honorable cause that has enabled them to overcome difficulties that have beset their path—difficulties which have been deemed insuperable hitherto, powers that have defied the law and disgraced the territory.

The civil cases of less moment to the county as being private in their nature were disposed of and the criminal cases begun.

The two Delushes were tried for branding and killing heifers, the property of Dobe Jack. They were convicted and sentenced to 18 months.

This matter is quite an old one. The verdict found by a jury of their fellow citizens, cleared up a case of cattle stealing. We need not enter upon the merits of this particular case, but that cattle stealing is to be detected and punished under a just dispensation is a fact we can congratulate ourselves on in this county. We need it badly. There appears in this court that fertile source of needless expense and trouble—the habitual litigant. Foster Blacklock had quite a nice crop of cases. That one man can offer any excuse for this perpetual bobbing up in the court house is to argue a scheme of martyrdom that should shame the neighborhood. We agree with the opinion given by a well known member of the grand jury, "This must be stopped." The cases involved we pass by. They are not creditable anyway.

Denham the man accused of burglary, etc., was convicted. He had helped himself from the store of Williams & Cooper, in Farmington, and concealed the goods by the river, sentence one year.

So the stealers of the cows and the goods were punished, rightly so, of course. A San Juan county jury vindicated the majesty of the law, as a jury should. They protected our fair county from wrong doing, as a jury

should. The public morals, the public integrity, whether in private speculation or crime of a public nature, must be and are in the hands of our county juries to be upheld. No consideration ever comes between them and their duty. With a solemn oath they begin their task, and with unbiased, unbought determination, they always carry it through. Our juries are men of our own county, the honor of the county is dear to them—to screen, or support crime, would be to disgrace us. To fail in their task, voluntarily, is to hurt their county terribly; to retard its progress, to lose public confidence and forever to mark themselves for suspicion, forever to be counted untrustworthy among men.

Next the Berry case—this county prosecution involved the discovery of the embezzler of a large sum of public money. That the shortage alleged existed there is no doubt. The prosecution urged this case for the county. It concerned the most important feature of county government, the honesty of the county executive. The case was carefully prepared by a careful prosecuting attorney. It disclosed a deficiency. It proved the receipts and dealings with moneys from month to month during the time the accused had full sway of an office nominally filled by a Mexican. The Colorado state bank of Durango was represented by F. W. Strater, its well known and able vice president. The bank showed that its system of accounts was accurate, certain, and not to be impugned for a moment. The bank upheld its high character as an institution of the most reliable kind. During one month a large sum was paid into the treasury by the sheriff. And yet the bank account was overdrawn, whilst at times the private checks of the accused on the First National bank were paid into the public account. The jury was composed of the following gentlemen: C. M. Hubbard, Herman Blum, E. H. Elmer, L. H. Miller, F. H. Tully, J. C. Impson, Nicholas Aragon, E. F. Spinner, Jake Schlier, Henry Woods, B. F. Daniels, James Scott. They brought in a verdict of "not guilty."

The trial as an event, touching the people of San Juan county, was an important one. Of course the jury were unprejudiced citizens; neither premeditated by any one of them was that verdict, of course not. Each man gave his decision founded on the evidence alone. The trial, as an event, deeply concerning the people of San Juan county, was one of great import. The district attorney acted for the citizens in a case where the good name, the character of the county, was at stake. He did his duty. The case is pronounced by all to have been perfect and without a flaw. The people cannot expect more. It is for them also, to exercise vigilance, for them to assert their honesty and integrity. The trial failed. The jury, of course, gave an unbiased decision. None of them, not one of them, founded his decision on friendship or prejudice; much less went into court with a slight idea of what they would do, of course not. Their position was indeed an onerous one. They were delegates, commissioned to investigate the thieving and raiding on the public treasury. Their verdict was "not guilty." So ends the trial. The money is gone. The actual taker is at large somewhere. The eyes of the outside world are directed hither. Are we safe in our system? Are we right in our enactments? Can we trust each other in the conduct of our public affairs? Can the outside world turn to us with confidence in its home seeking, and for the investment of its moneys?

An editor who died of starvation after making Dr. Tanner ashamed of himself, was being escorted to heaven by an angel who had been sent out for that purpose. "May I look at the other place before we ascend to eternal happiness?" "Easily," said the angel. So they went below and skirmished around, taking in the sights. The angel lost track of the editor, and went around Hades to hunt him up. He found him sitting by a furnace, fanning himself and gazing with rapture upon a lot of people in the fire. There was a sign on the furnace which said: "Delirquent Subscribers." "Come," said the angel, "we must be going." "You go on," said the editor. "I'm not coming. This is heaven enough for me."—Durango Democrat.

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